

Calls,
Town Hall
hit hot topics

Page 2

'Black
Letter
Initial'

Page 4

ALS gets new
'old' uniforms

Page 13

319th Air Refueling Wing

Mission: *The 319th Air Refueling Wing is the finest combat air mobility wing in the world's greatest air and space force.*

Vision: *To be the best at everything we do!*

Mission Effectiveness

Air Refueling Rate

100 %

Week of

Oct. 9 - 14

Air Land Rate

100 %

Week of

Oct. 9 - 14

Exercise
tests combat
readiness

See Pages 3, 10, 11

Runway scheduled for overhaul next summer

By Col. Scott Reese
Vice commander

In what marks the end of a multi-year planning and design process, Grand Forks Air Force Base has awarded a \$27.5 million construction project to rebuild the base's runway next summer.

The project was the largest O&M project in the Air Force to be awarded in Fiscal Year 2004 and would not have been possible without the great teamwork of engineers, comptrollers and contracting officers at Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command, and our 319th Civil Engineer, Comptroller and Contracting Squadrons.

Originally constructed in 1958, the runway was built for fighters at a relatively narrow width of 100 feet. When the base's flying mission changed to B-52's, it was widened by 200 feet for the entire length of 12,350 feet with two overruns of 1,000 feet each. As a result, the runway's crown (high-point) is off the center of the runway by 50 feet. A runway needs a crown to facilitate drainage, but an off-center crown is bad for aircraft such as the KC-135, with its low-hanging engines. Also, we only maintain and use 150 feet of the 300 foot width, abandoning the outer half for cost purposes.

Aside from a few minor repairs in 1986-87, no major work was completed until 1995 and 2000. At that time, the

center 50 feet of the runway was reconstructed. As currently configured, the runway does not comply with Air Force design standards and has failed durability testing, which led to the need for a new runway.

Next year, the entire runway will be reconstructed. The crown will be rebuilt at the centerline and the width will be reduced to 150 feet. The runway length will remain the same. Originally constructed with concrete, the majority of the new runway will be constructed with asphalt, except for 1,000 feet at the "touchdown zones" at the runway ends, which will remain concrete. Concrete tends to wear better in these areas where jets are most likely to make heavyweight turns. New runway lighting will also be installed along with 25-foot wide shoulders.

Construction will start in March 2005. At that point, 4,200 feet of the south end will be closed to flying operations while the remaining 8,150 feet of runway will be available for flight ops. Beginning in May 2005, the entire length of the runway will be closed with a projected opening date of November 2005.

During the runway closure, all aircraft will have to be moved off station. We're working with nearby bases and AMC to determine the best location to operate while minimizing the impact to our crews, maintainers, and their families.

Our primary concern is to continue our operations in support of the Global War on Terror, because the nation cannot do it without us, while limiting increases in members' time away from home as much as possible. Some of you remember that when the runway underwent construction in 2000, the wing "deployed" to MacDill AFB for flying ops. But that was pre-911, and only for about two months. The situation we're in now dictates that we find a base or

bases closer to home. That will allow us more flexibility for rotations, visits, etc. Although we could continue supporting GWOT from a number of bases around the country, it is our desire to minimize further disruption to Airmen and families that drive us to pursue nearby bases. This will be a challenging time, requiring everyone's patience and ingenuity, but the end result will be a runway of the same caliber as the people who fly and fight from it!

Action Line

Call 747-4522 or E-mail
commandersactionline@grandforks.af.mil

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base. For questions about current events or rumors, leave a message.

Questions will be answered in the order they are received.

11

Consecutive DWI-free days

Goal is zero DWIs.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Tyrrell
Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing
commander

Town Hall meeting

Thursday, base theater, 7 p.m.
Open to all members of the base community
Commander's Calls
Thursday, 3-bay hangar, 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Mandatory for wing servicemembers



Graphic by Staff Sgt. Lisa Carlson

Cover: Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 celebrates Hispanic Heritage month. From past to present, Hispanic American's have proudly served our nation. This edition of *The Leader* is dedicated to that heritage of service. See pages 10-12 for more.

Editorial staff

Col. Mark Ramsay _____ Wing commander
1st Lt. Michael Meridith _____ Chief, public affairs
1st Lt. Ashley Gee _____ Deputy chief, public affairs
Master Sgt. Anthony Davis _____ NCOIC, public affairs
Staff Sgt. Monte Volk _____ Editor/Chief, internal information
Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke _____ Associate editor

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♦**CCTV3** — **E-mail:** CCTV3@grandforks.af.mil, **Phone:** (701) 747-5023

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Warriors soar to flying hour record again

Col. Lee DeRemer

Operations Group commander

32,430!

That number could mean a lot of things, but recently it meant the shattering of a record. All the Warriors of the North should be congratulated for safely breaking the KC-135 flying hour record for the second straight year. We owe ourselves a pat on the back. We also owe each member of the wing and our families gratitude for the daily sacrifices that made this achievement possible.

Let me be specific: last week, the Warriors of the North closed fiscal year 2004 with a total of 32,430 flying hours and 5,650 sorties while planning, supporting, and executing the 319th Air Refueling Wing's global mission of air refueling, airlift, aeromedical evacuation, and expeditionary combat support.

It didn't happen by accident, and it didn't happen in a vacuum.

Consider:

- ➔ We've maintained the operations leadership and staff in two deployed tanker locations.

- ➔ We've carried AMC's heaviest KC-135 aircrew TDY burden, deploying our aircrew members for an average of 156 days during FY 04 and averaging 44 percent of those aircrew members "on the road" on any given day.

- ➔ We've done this all "accident-free."

- ➔ We've carried AMC's highest KC-135 maintenance deployment rate, averaging 160 maintainers deployed per month.

- ➔ We've led AMC with the lowest number of delayed maintenance discrepancies per aircraft-despite the highest ops tempo and the busiest flying hour program.

- ➔ We've consistently remained number one in AMC for Dental Class I & II readiness.

- ➔ We've led AMC in Preventive Health Assessments and individual medical readiness statistics

despite our heavy task load.

- ➔ We've distributed 1.3 million gallons of fuel to our jets while maintaining error-free fuel records reconciliation for two years running.

- ➔ We've made massive improvements to the airfield, including new taxiways, enhanced airfield lighting throughout, new approach lighting, and a renovated KC-135 parking ramp.

- ➔ We've produced more than 7,000 in-flight meals and another 14,500 in ground meal support.

We're programmed for less than half the number of flying hours and sorties that this wing produced. We didn't receive manning increases to accomplish this feat, either. We did it with the team and the resources we had. This reflects the commitment and dedication that sets the Warriors of the North apart.

I thank you and your families for your service to our Air Force and our nation.

News Briefs

Main Gate Closure

The Main (east) Gate to the base will be closed from 9 a.m. today until 6 a.m. Monday to allow construction on both lanes. Vehicles should use the south gate to enter and exit the base during the closure.

Drivers should use caution when entering and exiting the base.

For details call Mr. Jim McGuire at 747-4572.

Trash Screens

Saber Contractor will be installing new trash screens in the Prairieview Housing area Saturday.

For details call Karen Martin at 747-3035.



Donate to CFC

*For a list of squadron POCs,
call Capt. Jason Lauterbach at 747-5744*

**Wing Goal
\$90,000**

UND asks base to help break record

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

What's in a number?

For the women of the Fighting Sioux hockey team the magic number is 3,239. This number represents the current record for the highest attendance at any regular season collegiate women's hockey team game held by their rivals and upcoming opponent, the Minnesota Gophers.

The Gophers have held this record since 2002, but the Sioux hope to surpass this number tonight with the base's help.

The team visited the base Saturday to promote the game and hold a mini hockey clinic for youth.

"If you only go to one game all season long, come to this one," said Jenna Burdy, goalie.

In answer to this call, the base is holding a pep rally in the skills development center parking lot today starting at 4 p.m.

There will be a spirit award given out for dress and a poster/banner contest with two categories, youth ages 16 and younger and adults ages 17 and older. The posters will be judged by members of the Airmen's Activity Council.

Buses will also offer free rides to and from the arena. At the arena, there will be free t-shirts for the first 1,000 people, and \$1 hot dogs from 6 to 7 p.m.

Three of the players on the University of Minnesota team were members of the USA Women's Olympic hockey team.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

Devon Finland, University of North Dakota women's hockey team, greets Kelson Demmons during a mini hockey clinic Saturday at the sports and fitness center.

Web site explains National Security Personnel System

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Recently Department of Defense officials launched a Web site to educate civilian employees about the new National Security Personnel System. NSPS will make changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires civilian employees.

The site is meant to help DOD employees understand the new personnel system, said Brad Bunn, acting deputy program executive officer.

"Change is difficult, and lack of information about coming changes often leads to stress and anxiety and, unfortu-

nately, misperceptions about what those changes really mean," he said. "We recognize that, and are committed to communicating to our employees about what (the system) will mean to them. The Web site is one communications tool in our toolbox to do that. We will be open, honest and clear about (the system), and our Web site is designed to encourage employee involvement and interest, and minimize misconceptions."

He said the site will help those affected by the changes to understand the "rationale and benefits" of the NSPS, and that it will be "extremely useful" in keeping employees informed and updated as the system evolves.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004

National Defense Authorization Act, allowing DOD officials new authority to develop new civilian human resources, labor-management relations and employee appeals systems.

The new site offers an overview of what DOD employees can expect from the new personnel system, as well as information regarding issues of labor-management and employee unions, and links to system-related documents.

The site will be a primary communication vehicle, and it will be used throughout all phases of the personnel system design and implementation process, Mr. Bunn said.

"It certainly won't be our only means of communications, but it's a central source of information on NSPS," he said.

"We want to ensure DOD employees have a reliable, continuing source of information as the system develops."

The Web site is the second attempt by personnel officials to get the word out about the new system. A previous Web site was taken down after a three-week strategic review of the design and implementation process in April, officials said.

Mr. Bunn said the new site reflects a conscious effort to minimize confusion about plans for the system.

"We decided to completely redesign the site, giving it a new look and feel, to ensure that it reflects the results of that strategic review," he said.

The NSPS web site is located at <http://www.dp.hq.af.mil/dpp/dppn/nsps>.

Community Safety Night



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airman 1st Class William Kelly, 319th Security Forces Squadron, fingerprints Stephanie Spring, daughter of Heather and Master Sgt. Lyle Spring, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron, for Operation Ident-A-Kid Tuesday at the youth center during Community Safety Night. The annual event brings base agencies together to promote safety.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Master Sgt. Guy Chastain, Grand Forks Air Force Base Fire Department, discusses fire prevention with two children.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Karen GreyEyes, family advocacy outreach manager, talks with a parent during the event.

Staff Sgt. Corey Blakely, firefighter, explains his job to Safety Night attendees.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

*Had a few?
Call*

Need a ride?

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

740-2273

World War II heritage center provides personal look at history

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Sixty years ago, the United States was embroiled in a full-scale war in Europe and the Pacific.

History books, films and many other forms of media have provided an abundance of knowledge about the war over the past six decades, but nothing seems to put it into perspective like seeing artifacts and history in person.

The Richard I. Bong World War II Heritage Center in Superior, Wisc., was completed more than two years ago and highlights Superior's native son, former Army Air Corps Maj. Richard I. Bong, a World War II ace and Medal of Honor winner.

Major Bong served in the Pacific piloting a P-38 Lightning. He is credited with shooting down more than 40 enemy aircraft. A completely restored version of Major Bong's P-38 is on display in the center. I visited the heritage center along with my wife, three children, and two grandchildren in late July.

The center is located along the Superior bay front of Lake Superior, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and Wisconsin Highway 53.

I've heard Major Bong's name in the past, because the largest bridge between Superior and Duluth, Minn., is named after him – the Richard I. Bong Memorial Bridge. The bridge itself was a newsmaker when it was completed just over a decade ago. Once we went into the center, however, we learned a lot more about this war hero. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, however, for active duty military members and seniors it's \$7. Youth tickets are \$6 and children age 5 and younger get in for free.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

In the center in Superior, Wisc., people can see this reconstructed P-38 Lightning – flown by former Army Air Corps Maj. Richard I. Bong during World War II.

There is also a family rate of \$24 for two adults in same household and up to four children under 18 years of age.

Our family rate was \$22 because of my active duty status. The tickets themselves look like something from the World War II era.

Once you get inside the display area, there is an upper and lower level. In the center of it all is the P-38. There are many other displays. To name a few, there are love letters from home, letters from the front, interactive displays, videos about the war in the Pacific, and war-era clothing.

I found the P-38 and the rifle display to be the most interesting. The children seemed to be most enthralled by the interactive displays and playground outside of the center. My wife took a strong interest in the letters. The letters are a powerful reminder of what the war was like both at home and abroad.

In all, we spent just over an hour at the center. My fondest memory from the visit was when my oldest granddaughter asked me a question as we were leaving. She said, "Grandpa, what's a war?" I told her

it's something that has to be done sometimes. I believe I also said something along the lines of, "It's what Americans have to do sometimes to protect our freedom."

She also asked, "Mr. Bong was a pretty important guy, wasn't he?"

"Yes he was," I replied.

She just turned 6 years old and her mind is always turning. I think it's for people like her that places like this heritage center are built and I'm glad she got to see it.

Major Bong's World War II legacy is legendary in Superior, as the monuments to his name can attest. But more importantly, what he did for this country was no less than outstanding, and this center pays homage not only to his accomplishments but to all who served in World War II.

If you are near Superior this fall, I would encourage you to go see it. It's easy to find and isn't too long of a drive from here - five hours directly east on U.S. Highway 2. The center is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more details about the center, visit their Web site at <http://www.bongheritagecenter.org>.

[center.org](http://www.bongheritagecenter.org), e-mail them at info@bongheritagecenter.org; or call 1-888-816-WWII (9944).

About Maj. Richard I. Bong

Major Bong was the first fighter pilot handpicked by General George C. Kenney in the fall of 1942 for a P-38 squadron designed to strengthen his Fifth Air Force in Australia and New Guinea. Major Bong loved flying and the P-38 was the ideal fighting plane for the combat techniques he mastered – swooping down on his targets and blasting them at dangerously close range, then pulling up fast. His own aircraft was damaged in battle in several of his missions, once so badly he had to crash-land.

General Kenney pulled Dick Bong out of combat when his score reached 40 and sent him home. After his return, he was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he began training for a new assignment in Burbank, Calif., testing the plane that would take the Air Force into the jet age – the Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star.

On Aug. 6, 1945 (the day the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima), Major Bong was killed when the P-80 he was testing stalled and crashed on take-off.

Information courtesy Richard I. Bong World War II Heritage Center

Community

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

Superbabies: Baby Geniuses (PG)

A crew of talking toddlers must thwart the plan of media mogul Bill Biscane (Jon Voight) to take over the world with a mind-control device.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Exorcist: The Beginning (R)

This prequel to the classic 1973 horror flick “The Exorcist” recounts Father Merrin’s early-20th-century journey to Africa, where, while doing missionary work as a young priest, he has his first encounter with Satan.

Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

Vanity Fair (PG-13)

A young Englishwoman named Becky Sharp (Reese Witherspoon) living in London during the Napoleonic wars aims to abandon her poverty-stricken background and climb the social ladder by any means necessary. Her best friend, Amelia, with whom she has been reunited, pines for her husband, George, who’s been sent to the front lines.

Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

Anacondas: The Hunt for the Black Orchid (PG-13)



In this sequel to Anaconda, an expedition heads for Borneo to bring back a hard-to-find black orchid that could be the key to immortality, only to encounter a gaggle of big, nasty snakes that get their long life and power from the plants.

Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

Napoleon Dynamite (PG)

Napoleon Dynamite is an unusual (some might say geeky) teen living in the backwater town of Preston, Idaho, with his grandmother and unemployed older brother. Granny skips town, so Napoleon’s uncle Rico comes to stay with them and proceeds to interfere in their lives. Meanwhile, Napoleon’s busy trying to help his best friend, Pedro, get elected class president.

Oct. 23, 7 p.m.

Cellular (PG-13)

Ticket prices have changed.

Tickets: \$1.75 children, \$3.50 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m. Sunflower Chapel.

Weekday Mass: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Sunflower Chapel.

Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel, or by appointment by calling 747-5673.

For details on educational programs, call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Adult Education, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and Sacramental Programs:

Classes begin at 11 a.m. Sunday at Twining Elementary School.

Catholic Scripture Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sunflower Chapel

PROTESTANT:

Traditional Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Contemporary Worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.

Men of the Chapel Bible Study: None due to Columbus Day.

Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Swain’s home. For details call 747-4359.



Women’s Bible Study: 7 p.m., Monday, Prairie Rose conference room.

Protestant Youth of the Chapel: Begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the youth center.

Protestant Sunday school: 9 a.m. Sunday, in Eielson Elementary School.

JEWISH:

Call Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, ORTHODOX, OTHER:

For details call 747-5673.

Community

Today

OSC SCRAPBOOKING

The OSC Scrapbooking Club meets today from 7 to 10 p.m. and Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Prarie Rose chapel. Attendees should bring money for a lunch. For details call Tera Hart at 594-8038.

Sunday

SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Northern Lights Club sunday brunch is today from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.25 for adults, \$7.25 for children 5 to 12, and 4 and younger eat free.

Monday

YOUTH CENTER, SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM, LIBERTY SQUARE CLOSED FOR COLUMBUS DAY

Wednesday

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Date: Oct. 16
Depart: 8 a.m. from Outdoor Recreation

Return: Same evening
Cost: \$20 per person; includes admission

The arts and crafts fair in Fargo has more than 400 booths. These booths include toys, folk art, wood furniture, dolls, oak products, baskets, ceramics, miniatures, appliqué, batten burg, dolls, glassware, ornaments, denim clothing, Noah's Ark, feeders, horse collars, swings, and more. Sign up by Wednesday at outdoor recreation, 747-3688.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL AND HAUNTED HOUSE MEETING

There is a Halloween Carnival and Haunted House meeting Wednesday at 5 p.m. at Liberty Square. The meeting is for those who have a booth reserved for the carnival and for Haunted House volunteers. Each participating organization must have a representative present.

Thursday

CLUB LUNCH SPECIAL

It's \$2 Lunch Day for club members Thursday. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Non-members will pay the regular lunch price.

Upcoming

MEMBER'S MAYHEM

The Northern Light Club will be holding Member's Mayhem Oct. 15. This is an all-ranks social hour for club members.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL TICKETS

Advance Halloween Carnival tickets are on sale through Oct. 15 at the youth center. The advance price is five tickets for \$1; the door price is four

tickets for \$1.
Tickets are needed to play the game booths, enter the Haunted House and to purchase food.

EIELSON DINNER/AUCTION

The Eielson Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization holds its fall dinner and auction Oct. 18 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The dinner is free, and bidding for auction baskets begins at 5:30 p.m.
For more information, call Eielson school at 787-5000.



SAFETY SENSE

Clothes Dryer Fires

THE COST

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety commission estimates that 15,500 fires associated with clothes dryers occur annually
The fires account for an average of 10 deaths and 310 injuries and more than \$84 million in property damage annually

THE CAUSE

Lack of maintenance can result in increased lint build-up, poor performance, and operation at an elevated temperature which leads to overheating

THE CURE

Clean lint filter before and after each load
Periodically, have dryer professionally cleaned
Install rigid or flexible metal venting and ducting
Read the manufacture's warnings on use and care

Source AMC Safety

Info Graphic by Master Sgt. Paul Fazzini



H Wing's newest American

H
I
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By Master Sgt. Anthony Davis
Public affairs

As night falls over the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, U.S. Army and Air Force personnel wrap up another day in the continuing mission to stabilize this war-torn country.

Airman 1st Class Doris Ochoa-Parra calls her mom from the morale tent inside the American fortified enclave in the city. Her conversation is interrupted by explosions nearby.

"What was that noise?" her mother asks. "Nothing," Airman Ochoa-Parra replied. "I have to go now. I love you."

The 20-year-old Airman hangs up the phone and hustles to the nearest shelter. It isn't the first time she's heard the explosions nearby, and it won't be the last. The experience, she says, reminds her of Warrior Week during basic training.

With less than two years in the Air Force, Airman Ochoa-Parra has experienced more than many who have served a full career. The personnel specialist with the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron saw combat at two of the many locations she visited during her 120-day deployment as a third country national escort earlier this year. Soldiers she spoke to told stories of buddies dying in front of them, yet it was not the first time she had to deal with death.

Airman Ochoa-Parra attended the funeral of Airman 1st Class Alexander "Frank" Folgar, 319th Maintenance Squadron, in the summer of 2003. Airman Folgar was a friend, and his parents didn't speak English very well, so Airman Ochoa-Parra accompanied squadron leadership to help translate.

She did all this before becoming an American citizen.

The early years
Doris Yolanda

Ochoa-Parra was born 1984 in Cuenca, Ecuador. Her father, Jose, and mother, Teresa, lived in a small house in the Quinta-Chica barrio with Doris and her three older siblings.

When Doris was a year old, her father immigrated to the U.S., where he found a job in a children's clothing factory in New Jersey. Three years later, Doris' mom joined him. The couple sent money to Doris' older sister to take care of the rest of the family.

"We were really poor," Airman Ochoa-Parra said of her childhood. "To go to school, you had to wear a uniform. We wore our uniforms every day so they were torn and our shoes had holes in them."

Daily meals consisted of coffee and bread for breakfast, and bread and soda for lunch. Every now and then they would have a banana during lunch.

When she was 6 years old, her father returned to Ecuador intending to take his children back to America. Airman Ochoa-Parra said it was like meeting him for the first time, and she wasn't ready to leave her home. America, though, quickly appealed to

her.

"It was like, wow, food," she said of the sudden change in diet. "It was a modern place for me."

It was modern, but still foreign. Doris didn't speak English when she arrived so she was placed in a bilingual class at the local school. She began learning her new language during summer school and sharpened her new talent during the school year. When she finished third grade, her teachers decided she no longer needed the bilingual class. Her progress, however, moved her further from her Hispanic roots.

Returning home

Although Jose Ochoa had gained his U.S. citizenship, Teresa was having problems immigrating. She needed to go back to Ecuador for two years before she could legally stay with the family. She took Doris with her.

The change in scenery was more difficult for Doris this time. She had lost grasp of her native language and it caused problems at school.

"I had to buy a Spanish-to-English dictionary," Airman Ochoa-Parra said. "I needed tutors to help me with math, and I would study until 3 or 4 in the morning."

She also began rebelling against her mother.

"I was getting into so much trouble," she said. "I hung out with the bad crowd. Mom didn't know what to do with me."

Her mother threatened to send her to a convent, which scared the young Doris.

"Little by little I got some sense in my head," she said. Her grades improved and she started enjoying life in



Ecuador again. After finishing ninth grade, she returned to New Jersey with her mother. She finished high school on the honor roll and began planning for college.

Crossing into the blue

During a career day at her high school, a Navy recruiter encouraged Doris to enlist. The military appealed to her since she had lived near an Ecuadoran Army post as a child and her grandfather had served in that same army, fighting in the on-going border dispute with Peru. Doris was ready to join, but the then 17-year-old needed her parents' permission.

"All I had to do was go to the (Military Entrance Processing Station) and I was in," she said, but her parents refused to give their permission. By the time she was 18, Doris had a change in heart and decided to join the Air Force.

After basic training and technical school, Airman Ochoa-Parra was stationed at Grand Forks. She soon began checking into getting her citizenship. She sent in her application and waited.

"Then I found out I was getting deployed," she said.

Her four-month tour to the Middle East became an adventure she'll never forget — employing force protection measures, taking cover in bunkers and combat showers each day around a 14-hour work shift.

"It was scary at first, but I got used to it," she said. "It was a good experience and I learned a lot."

The deployment made her miss the most important piece of mail she was expecting — her citizenship interview appointment let-

ter, which arrived in February. When she returned to Grand Forks the military personnel flight helped her reschedule the interview for August. She answered every question correctly for a perfect score and earned her citizenship.

Her co-workers, Capt. Colleen Ewasko, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Kennedy, and Senior Airman Angel Boss, accompanied her to the official ceremony Sept. 17 in Fargo.

"It was a really special day for me," she said. "I would have liked my family to be there, but I had the support of my squadron."

She also feels that support from the local community.

"I took Grand Forks for granted before I deployed," she said. "I've learned to appreciate this place the hard way."

Her new citizenship has already benefited her.

"I felt like so many doors opened for me,"



Courtesy photo

Airmen 1st Class Doris Ochoa-Parra and Susana Martinez, best friends, stand in front of the Saddam Wall in Kirkuk, Iraq. While deployed, Airman Ochoa-Parra missed her citizenship appointment but quickly rescheduled.

Airman Ochoa-Parra added, noting that she can now get her security clearance, reenlist, or retrain into a different career field. "I can vote."

Even though she's the wing's newest citi-

zen, Airman Ochoa-Parra has already experienced more than many Warriors of the North.

"Now I feel like I've done everything in life," she said, "and I'm only 20 years old."

Hispanic Americans; shaping nation's character

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize Hispanic Americans for helping to shape our national character and strengthen our communities. The warmth and vitality of the Hispanic culture are great gifts to America and are part of the unique fabric of our country.

Hispanic Americans have enriched our Nation through contributions in many professions and fields, including education, law, government, business, science, sports, and the arts. Since our

Nation's founding, Hispanic Americans have served bravely in the United States Armed Forces, earning more than three dozen Medals of Honor and numerous distinguished military decorations for their leadership, courage, and patriotism. Today, Hispanic Americans in our Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserve units continue this proud legacy as they stand watch on the front lines of freedom. The hard work, values, and devotion to community of Hispanic Americans set a positive

example for all Americans.

Across our country, we are working to continue helping Hispanic Americans realize the great promise of America. In 2002, I set a goal of increasing the number of minority homeowners by at least 5.5 million by the end of the decade. We are making good progress -- having added more than 1.6 million minority homeowners so far. Through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, we are working to ensure that schools are serving every student. In addition, we

are committed to improving immigration services while strengthening national security.

I join with all Americans in celebrating the heritage, culture, spirit, and contributions of Hispanic Americans. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2004, as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

President George W. Bush

HHM history

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in

1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the start-

ing point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.



Heritage Month



First Hispanic woman grad credits academy for her success

by Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Not only was Linda Garcia Cubero the first Hispanic woman to graduate the Air Force Academy, she was the only Hispanic woman to graduate from any of the nation's service academies in 1980, when the first classes with women graduated.

President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation Oct. 7, 1975, allowing women to enter the nation's military academies. Women entered the Air Force Academy for the first time June 28, 1976. The first class with women graduated in May 1980.

A graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School in Chicopee, Mass., Ms. Cubero was the first woman in that state to receive an appointment to any military academy.

Ms. Cubero said she decided to pursue an education at the Academy to follow her father's footsteps into the Air Force as a commissioned officer. She also wanted to travel and see the world.

"I wanted to get a really good education, and the opportunities at the service academies were just too good to pass up," said Ms. Cubero, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and earned her free-fall parachute wings.

Ms. Cubero said her first year at the academy "was pretty rough."

"I wasn't used to being yelled at and being braced up against the wall and told to tuck your chin in and do push-ups and sit-ups," she said. "The aca-

demical environment didn't bother me; the physical aspect didn't bother me, but the mental and emotional challenge was tough. The intent is to strip you down as individuals and form you into first a follower and then learn how to be a leader and how to be a part of a team. They do a very good job of that."

But the transition was tough for an 18-year-old who had never been away from home, she said.

"Emotionally and mentally, it was quite a challenge, but one that I think created a foundation for my success today," said Ms. Cubero, now a client director at Hewlett-Packard. She is also on the board of directors of the Girl Scouts' Tejas Council.

In 1998, Ms. Cubero was inducted into the National Hispanic Engineering Hall of Fame. In 2002, Hispanic Business magazine named her as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the United States. She has been featured in several magazines and is a frequent keynote speaker.

She said the four years at the Academy, the discipline, the leadership, the skills she learned and the academic background all laid a foundation for her successes in life.

"The self-confidence I have today was built there," Ms. Cubero said. "It had a tremendous (effect) on my career and my success ... in the Air Force and in the corporate environment."

"Make sure you share those learnings with others," she said.

When she spoke at the National Latina Symposium honoring Hispanic women military academy graduates in

early September, Ms. Cubero told the gathering that her lifelong motto is, "You tell me I can't, and I'll show you I will."

"I learned that the only barriers in your way are those you create yourself," Ms. Cubero said. "I learned the value of true friendship and what it means to serve others before self."

She said she also learned about an honor code that says, "We will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate among us anyone who does."

"And I learned that your integrity, your word, is something that no one can ever take away," Ms. Cubero said. "I learned that serving your country is not just about putting on a uniform every day; it's about duty, pride, honor, character and about being part of a team."

Since graduating from the academy, Ms. Cubero said she learned the definition of success "isn't in the size of your paycheck, but in the opportunities you create for others and in the differences you can make."

She gave her key ingredients necessary for success in today's challenging times:

-- Develop relationships and cultivate networks: "You can't survive on your skills alone. Good leaders don't have to have all the right answers -- they just need to know where to go to get them," she said.

-- Practice lifelong learning: "Seek to understand more than just your job. Look for ways to improve things around you."

-- Develop business acumen and judgment: "Ask questions. Seek a men-



Photo by Rudi Williams

Linda Garcia Cubero, the first Hispanic woman graduate of a service academy, said the Air Force Academy had a tremendous effect on her career and her success in the Air Force and in the corporate environment.

tor. Continue to learn and grow and be generous with what you learn. Don't be afraid to fail or you will never succeed."

-- Develop leadership competencies: "Whether it's government, military, corporate America or an academic institution, every organization needs good leaders, at all levels."

-- Achieve personal clarity: "Be curious about yourself. Understand what brings you fully alive, what matters most to you, what motivates you, and design your life around those things. The better you take care of yourself, the more you can be there for others."

Hispanic Heritage Month events

Piñata Contest

The Hispanic Heritage Month committee is holding a base-wide piñata-making contest at the Prairie Rose Chapel Annex Wednesday at noon.

All base members are eligible to submit an entry.

*The categories for judging will be based on entries. Any design is permitted as long as it is nonoffensive.

After the judging all entries will be given to the youth center for breaking.

Restrictions:

- No higher than 4 ft. (streamers are okay)

- No wider than 4 ft. (streamers are okay)
- Homemade (no store bought entries)
- No candy inside (candy/stuffing will be provided after judging)

Those interested in submitting an entry should contact 2nd Lt. Mary E. Miksell, 747-4139, by Tuesday with name, age and group and organization of the entrant.

Luncheon and Dance Performance

Free food and festivities will be available at the Prairie Rose Chapel Annex Wednesday, from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Various authentic Hispanic meals will be served. There will be displays and dances performed by the Sol de Espana - Spanish folk dancers. The Sol de Espana represent various regions of Spain through dance. A universal favorite is the fiery flamenco style of southern Spain. Their presentation features castanets and brilliantly colored skirts and shawls.

Latino Dance Night

The Northern Lights Club will be hosting a night of dancing Oct. 15, starting at 9 p.m. Merengue, salsa, bachata and more will be offered.

Local Area

Autumn Artistry Fall Art Show Bismarck (Oct. 5-30)

The annual fall art show at the Bismarck Art and Galleries Association will feature approximately 150 pieces of varied medium by 80 local artists. The display runs through the month and there's no charge to view the gallery. For more information call 701-223-5986; or online at <http://www.ndaga.org/Galleries/baga.html>.

Andre Agassi vs. Andy Roddick Grand Forks (Tuesday)

The Engelstad Open features an exhibition tennis match between pro tennis superstars Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick in the Ralph Engelstad Arena. Also on the schedule is an eight-game pro set match between tennis veterans Luke and Murphy Jensen against the number one men's doubles team from the University of Minnesota. Doors open at 6:30 for the 7:30 p.m. event. For more information, go online to www.theralph.com.

Display againts violence (Throughout October)

The Chester Fritz Library Presents a Display Focusing on Violence Against Women. This display explores the history, social and literary treatment of violence against women. Books from the library's general collections trace the scholarly treatment of the subject,

and chronicle significant historical events. The exhibit is located on the second floor display cases near the Main Entrance and the Reading Room. The exhibit was prepared by Janet Rex, Victor Lieberman, & Felicia Clifton. The display will run through October 2004.

For more opportunities to have an adventure without travelling far from home go to www.ndtourism.com or call 800-435-5663 or 701-328-2525. All provide information on other entertainment, sporting and cultural events throughout the state.

A little richer

Gladys Cates (center), stands with her husband, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Cates (near right), Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander (left), Chief Master Sgt. Danny Holwerda, 319th ARW command chief (rear), and Maj. Elizabeth Demmons, 319th Services Squadron commander. Mrs. Cates won \$5,000 in cash and \$2,000 in furniture.



Photo by Christine Davis

On the move

One of the contractors building new housing on base hauls off an old garage along a county road recently.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

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One of the contractors building new housing on base hauls off an old garage along a county road recently.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Firedogs extinguish MSS 41-19

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

The 319th Civil Engineer Squadron’s “B” team extinguished the 319th Mission Support Squadron 41 – 19, thanks to their quarterback’s long arm and trick plays Sept. 29.

CESB showed MSS what they were made of early in the game with a flea-flicker that netted a touchdown and extra point.

MSS took the offensive and Monte Volk, the quarterback, started calling plays. His running game and quick legs were put on the spot when he ran through tackles for the first down.

Volk also showed his passing side by throwing long to Adonis Ball for another first down. CESB seemed to think Volk had exceptional passes and thanked him by catching one of them.

Brent Crispen, CESB’s quarterback, took the ball but couldn’t get any yardage.

He finally connected one of his passes to Steve Mower, who ran the ball in for a touchdown, and then the extra point.

Volk got the ball again and passed to Ball for a MSS first down, and then to Steve Duerkop for another.

He followed up the passes by running in a touch-down, putting MSS on the board.

CESB reacted by picking off the extra point pass and two plays later, scoring a touchdown.

MSS took the ball again and started another drive toward the end zone.

After some missed passes and near interceptions, Volk connected with Duerkop for the touchdown, with Wade Young going in for the extra point.

CESB came back ready to play, Crispen threw deep but Ball came out of nowhere and batted it to the ground.

CESB failed to gain yardage on the drive and returned the ball to MSS.

Volk connected with Duerkop again for another MSS touchdown. MSS tried to advance their score and went for two but didn’t succeed.

Crispen got the ball back and capped a five-play drive with a touchdown by Rickey Hubley.

On MSS’ next possession, Mower picked off a pass, and then caught the subsequent touchdown pass from Crispen.

Mower put an end to any MSS’ hopes for a comeback by picking off on more pass and returning it for the final score of the game.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

Wade Young, 319th Mission Support Squadron, catches a pass thrown by quarterback Monte Volk.

Sports shorts

SINGLES POOL TOURNAMENT

Singles Pool Tournament Saturday at the Youth Center for ages 9 to 12 at 5 p.m., and ages 13 to 18 at 9 p.m. Cost is \$1 for non-members, free for members.

YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Basketball registration contin-

ues through the Oct. 15 at the youth center for ages 5 to 12. Cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. A sports physical is required. Volunteer coaches are needed. For details call the youth center at 747-3150.

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN SHOOT

Dakota Bowling Center will be having a 9-pin no tap Halloween Pumpkin Shoot Oct. 30 at 7:30

p.m. Cost is \$12 per person. There will be prize categories for men and women plus a best costume prize. Come by the bowling center and sign up now.

POWER STRETCH YOGA CLASSES

The sports and fitness center offers Power Stretch Yoga classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:35 to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. Yoga is also great for people who suffer from back problems, carpal tunnel syndrome, muscle tension and more. Talk to your doctor before starting any new fitness regimen. For details call the fitness center at 747-3386.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Intramural and old pro basketball leagues are forming. Anyone interested in playing or coaching should contact their unit sports representative or the fitness center at 747-3386.

Standings

Intramural flag football

| | |
|-------|-----|
| CES-B | 9-0 |
| LRS | 8-2 |
| MSS | 7-2 |
| OSS | 4-5 |
| CES-A | 6-4 |
| AMXS | 8-3 |
| MDG | 3-7 |
| MOS | out |
| SVS | 4-6 |
| SFS | 5-5 |
| MXS | 1-8 |
| CS | 1-9 |

Current as of Thursday

Intramural bowling

| | |
|--------|-------|
| LRS-A | 26-6 |
| MDG | 24-8 |
| COMM-A | 22-10 |
| 911ARS | 22-10 |
| LRS-C | 20-12 |
| MSS | 20-12 |
| MXS | 18-14 |
| COMM-B | 18-14 |
| SFS | 18-14 |
| AMXS | 14-18 |
| CES | 12-12 |
| SVS | 12-20 |
| LRS-B | 10-14 |
| 905ARS | 10-20 |
| CPTS | 6-26 |

Current as of Tuesday



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Davis

In the zone

Fifth and sixth grade base children (dark jerseys) play football during a Grand Forks city league game Saturday morning at South Middle School.